

Message Text

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21

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251627

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

1. DICK BELL WAS QUOTED IN THE OCTOBER 22 WASHINGTON POST AS SAYING THE SOVIET GRAIN CROP WILL BE QUOTE NO MORE THAN 160 MILLION TONS. UNQUOTE. WE ASKED ONE OF BELL'S DEPUTIES WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT AGRICULTURE HAD REVISED ITS OFFICIAL ESTIMATE (170 MILLION). HE SAID THAT THE ESTIMATE HAD NOT BEEN REVISED, BUT ALSO SAID THAT BELL HAD NOT BEEN MISQUOTED. NO FURTHER EXPLANATION FOR THE DISCREPANCY, BUT WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHERS AT USDA THAT THEY ARE ABOUT TO DROP TO THE LOWER FIGURE. THE AGENCY'S CURRENT ESTIMATE CONTINUES TO BE A RANGE OF 155-65.

2. YOU MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT GRAIN FUTURES DROPPED SHARPLY ON THE CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT.

3. MRS. STOESSEL HAS BEEN KEPT ABREAST OF STORY OF AMBASSADOR'S LEAVE PLANS AND NOW EXPECTS HIM OCTOBER 24
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UNLESS SHE HEARS OTHERWISE. SHE SAYS TO FORGET BOOTS AND

AIR FREIGHT TRUNK KEY, WHEREABOUTS OF WHICH SHE DOES NOT
KNOW. SHE ASKS THAT MIKE TELL CLEMENTE THAT PERSONAL
EFFECTS SHOULD BE LOCKED UP REGARDLESS OF ENTERTAINING AT
SPASO. ON CLOTH FOR TABLES, IT IS MRS. STOESSEL'S IM-
PRESSION THAT 20 RPT 20 SMALL TABLES PLUS 3 LARGER TABLES
REQUIRING 40 M. OF CLOTH 90 CM. WIDE ARE UNRESOLVED.
APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION. INGERSOLL

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